

NOAA's Clean Water Initiative

\$22 Million in FY 1999

NOAA's FY 1999 \$22 million request will provide the financial assistance necessary for coastal states to develop and implement programs to control polluted runoff from agricultural areas, city streets, and other sources. This funding will also support the research and monitoring essential to finding the sources and solutions to the spread of harmful algal blooms, such as *Pfiesteria*, often associated with polluted coastal waters. NOAA's Clean Water Initiative is a modest investment to help restore and protect our valuable coastal waters that support billions of dollars of economic activity every year through tourism, recreation and commercial fishing.

Control of Harmful Algal Blooms - \$9.0 million

Polluted runoff often carries large amounts of nutrients that can contaminate coastal waters. Harmful algal blooms (HAB's) are often associated with high levels of nutrient pollution. This funding would allow NOAA and its academic partners to continue to be leaders in the research, monitoring, and assessment of HAB's to better predict and prevent HAB events.

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff - \$ 12.0 million

\$12 million in FY 1999 will provide coastal states with funding to fully develop and implement their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. This will significantly improve their ability to manage polluted runoff and reduce coastal water pollution. NOAA administers the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in partnership with states that have approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs.

Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - \$ 1.0 million

\$1 million in FY 1999 will reduce the flow of pollutants from hazardous waste sites into our coastal waters. NOAA's Coastal Resource Coordination program works at hazardous waste sites to protect and restore coastal resources and their habitats, including the water and sediments necessary to support a healthy ecosystem. The request will enable NOAA to address a broader range of waste sites and provide critical technical assistance to States and communities, improving the health of our coastal waters and the resources they support.

Taking Action Now

Polluted runoff is now a major source of coastal water pollution. Communities, businesses, and human health are being increasingly threatened by polluted runoff and the damaging consequences of polluted coastal waters. Every year, degraded water quality causes warnings or closures of thousands of beaches, and nearly thirty percent of U.S. shellfish growing areas continue to be restricted or closed, resulting in significant losses to tourism, recreation, and seafood industries. Harmful algal blooms like *Pfiesteria*, red tides, and brown tides, which are frequently associated with polluted waters, have impacted nearly every coastal state and produced an estimated \$1 billion in economic losses in coastal communities over the past twenty years.

The increasing frequency and magnitude of these problems demands that significant action be taken now to restore and protect the health of our vital coastal waters. NOAA has the authorities, capabilities, and partnerships critical to successfully reduce polluted runoff and meet the challenges of the interagency Clean Water Action Plan for our Nation's coastal waters.

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NOAA/NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

OR&F Budget Structure

(dollars in millions)

| | <u>FY99</u> | <u>Purpose</u> |
|--|---------------|--|
| Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment: | | |
| Oceanic & Coastal Research | \$ 1.0 | Charleston Lab Pfiesteria/HAB Research |
| Ocean Assessment Program | \$ 5.2 | HAB Research, Monitoring & Assessment |
| Coastal Ocean Science | \$ 1.0 | CRC Program |
| Subtotal | <u>\$ 2.8</u> | ECOHAB research program |
| | \$10.0 | |
| Ocean and Coastal Management: | | |
| CZMA Section 309 Grants | \$ 6.0 | Program implementation grants |
| Nonpoint Pollution Control | <u>\$ 6.0</u> | Program development grants |
| Subtotal | \$12.0 | |
| Clean Water Initiative -- Total | \$22.0 | |

Control of Harmful Algal Blooms - \$9.0 million

The requested funds will support partnership efforts that include:

- developing capabilities to forecast HABs, evaluate their toxicity, and provide strategies to mitigate their impacts);
- enhancing monitoring and assessment capabilities through partnerships with states and academia; and
- understanding the linkages between nutrient runoff and polluted coastal waters, HABs, and hypoxia in coastal ecosystems.

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff - \$ 12.0 million

The requested funds will support State efforts to reduce polluted runoff, as follows:

- \$6 million for grants to CZM states for development of coastal runoff control programs. By FY 1999, twenty-nine CZM states will have approved Coastal Nonpoint Control Programs, though certain portions of these programs need further
- development. In addition, three new CZM states (Texas, Georgia, Ohio) need resources to fully develop their approvable Coastal Nonpoint Control Programs.
- \$6 million for CZM Section 309 grants to CZM states for implementation of their coastal runoff control programs. These grants will allow coastal states to implement on-the-ground management measures, and leverage other state and local resources, to control the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters.

Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - \$ 1.0 million

The requested funds will enable NOAA to:

- work with EPA and other agencies to assess ecological risk and develop protective cleanups strategies at hundreds of coastal waste sites each year;
- address a broader range of sites, including military facilities and solid waste sites, that are polluting our coastal waters; and
- provide more technical assistance to States and communities impacted by hazardous waste and Brownfields sites.